



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q61365

Jean-Francois GRIMALDI, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/673,614

Group Art Unit: 2833

Confirmation No.: 2115

Examiner: P. NGUYEN

Filed: October 19, 2000

For: A SPRING-CONTACT FOR AN ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR AND A CONNECTOR INCLUDING IT

INVENTORS' DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

We, Jean-Francois Grimaldi and Jean-Marc Dauba, hereby declare and state as follows:

1. We are the co-inventors and applicants of the invention entitled "A SPRING-CONTACT FOR AN ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR AND A CONNECTOR INCLUDING IT", disclosed and claimed in U.S. Application No. 09/673,614, filed October 19, 2000.
2. At the time we invented the present invention, we were all employed by COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE ALCATEL (hereinafter "ALCATEL"), and were employed in the corporate research center at ALCATEL.
3. Prior to February 16, 1999, the U.S. Filing Date of U.S. Patent No. 6,077,130 to Hughes et al., the Spring Contact for an Electrical Connector and a Connector Including It invention as described and claimed in the above referenced application was completed in France, as evidenced by the following:

4. Prior to February 16, 1999, having earlier conceived the idea of the Spring Contact for an Electrical Connector and a Connector Including It, as set forth in the specification of the above referenced application, the present invention was formally submitted to our employer ALCATEL.

5. Prior to February 16, 1999, it was standard practice of employees of ALCATEL to submit their inventions to the Intellectual Property Department at ALCATEL on a Fiche d'information technique (hereinafter "FIT"), after their inventions were approved by their supervisors.

6. The submission of the above FIT to the Intellectual Property Department at ALCATEL for the present invention occurred on October 26, 1998, prior to February 16, 1999. The FIT along with its Figures, which comprises a technical part originally written in English, is attached as Exhibit "A".

7. The attached FIT, including its attached Figures, completely discloses the present invention as set forth and claimed in the above referenced application.

8. On January 25, 1999, in the ordinary course of business, the ALCATEL Intellectual Property Department sent a letter to Mr. Christian Schmit of Cabinet Christian SCHMIT et Associés, a French patent firm, requesting Mr. Schmit to prepare a French Patent Application based on the above FIT. A copy of the letter and an attachment entitled "Technical Information" are attached as Exhibit B, and an English translation of the letter is attached as Exhibit C.

9. Employees of Cabinet Christian SCHMIT et Associés, drafted a patent application titled: A SPRING CONTACT FOR AN ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR AND A CONNECTOR INCLUDING IT in regular order from January 1999 through the application's filing date of March 11, 1999, in the French Patent Office. An English translation of the French patent application FR 9902996 is attached hereto as Exhibit "D."

10. The attached English translation of the French patent application FR 9902996 completely discloses the present invention as set forth and claimed in the above referenced application.

We declare further that all statements made herein are of our own knowledge and are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code; and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: _____

By: _____
Jean-Francois Grimaldi

Date: 04.03.04

By: 
Jean-Marc Dauba